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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
Fourth session
New York, 6-8 August 2014
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*
Global geodetic reference frame

Global geodetic reference frame

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the report prepared by the working group on the global geodetic reference frame, which is available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the text of a draft resolution to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly at a suitable time in the near future.

Summary of the report

At its third session, held in July 2013, the Committee of Experts recognized the growing demand for positioning services that are more precise and the economic importance of a global geodetic reference frame; the need to improve global cooperation within geodesy, including to openly share data in order to contribute to regional and global reference frames; and the need for appropriate commitment to national contributions aimed at improving national geodetic infrastructure as a means to enhance the global geodetic reference framework. The Committee of Experts unanimously agreed that actions should be taken to facilitate the submission of a resolution to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session in order to seek support and commitment at the highest level and requested the Secretariat to establish a working group, with equitable regional representation, to develop the conceptual note and draft text of the resolution through an open and inclusive process.

* E/C.20/2014/1.

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The report describes the establishment of the working group on the global geodetic reference frame and the process whereby it formulated the conceptual note and draft text of the resolution to be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session in consultation with Member States and the international scientific community, including the International Association of Geodesy.

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda*
Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes

Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management its report on determining global fundamental geospatial data themes, which is available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the way forward in addressing the issues relating to global fundamental geospatial data themes.

Summary of the report

At its second session, held in August 2012, the Committee of Experts considered an inventory of issues gathered by Member States that should be addressed in the coming years. Among the key issues was that of agreement to and implementation of core global reference data sets by specific themes. It was considered that a continuing gap in the successful unification of a national, regional and global geospatial information management capability is the lack of an agreed set of readily available and authoritative global reference data sets by specific themes. In furtherance of the topic, the second High-level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management, held in Doha from 4 to 6 February 2013, dedicated a session to challenges in developing core global reference data sets. The Doha Declaration on Advancing Global Geospatial Information Management, the outcome document of the Forum, affirmed the importance of an agreed set of authoritative core global reference data sets that are needed to support global sustainable development activities and to work jointly towards the preparation, improvement and maintenance of these core global reference data sets.

* E/C.20/2014/1.

14-53819 (E) 300514

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The report describes the background to and the need for global fundamental geospatial data themes and provides national and regional examples that help to inform and guide the way forward.

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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
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Item 5 of the provisional agenda*
Trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management

Trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the report prepared by the working group on trends in national institutional arrangements, which is available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the way forward for national and global geospatial information management entities to contribute to the development of best practices, sets of institutional models and legal frameworks for national geospatial information management.

Summary of the report

At its third session, held in July 2013, the Committee of Experts acknowledged that there was an urgent need to discuss the issues related to national institutional arrangements and to identify best practices in these arrangements for geospatial information management. The Committee of Experts welcomed the offer of a number of countries to work together in a small working group with the Secretariat in order to continue the exercise, building upon the initial work and the work undertaken in the regions, and to report the findings to the Committee of Experts at its next session, in 2014.

The report describes the creation of the working group on trends in national institutional arrangements and the tasks undertaken to prepare the road map and the two-year workplan, which outlines the targets and deliverables to be achieved and

* E/C.20/2014/1.

14-53821 (E) 300514

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three broad areas of work: (a) geospatial information business model analysis; (b) the structure of geospatial information management organizations; and (c) the role of people as users and producers of geospatial information, inclusive of the creation of subgroups.

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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*
Global map for sustainable development

Global map for sustainable development

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the report prepared by the working group for a global map for sustainable development, which is available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the way forward for the international community, under the coordination and mandate of the United Nations, to work with all stakeholders to improve intergovernmental coordination for a sustained, operational global map for sustainable development.

Summary of the report

At its third session, held in July 2013, the Committee of Experts recognized the need for a closer working relationship between the working group for a global map for sustainable development and the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping and the need to specify a narrower focus that builds on existing standards and regional initiatives, to provide a clear understanding of the needs and requirements of the sustainable development user community and to collaborate with the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals.

The report describes the activities of the working group and summarizes the outcomes of the Chengdu Forum on the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management, held in Chengdu, China, from 15 to 17 October 2013, and the working group's interactions with the Open Working Group of the General Assembly, the high-level political forum on sustainable

* E/C.20/2014/1.

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development and the third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015. In addition, it outlines the collaboration between the working group and the International Steering Committee, in the context of which the former would assume an advisory role, while the latter would focus on the operational implementation of the work programme. In preparation for the working group's contribution to the post-2015 development agenda, it also draws attention to the need for more advocacy efforts in order to better understand the needs and requirements of the sustainable development user community. The global geospatial community should continue to demonstrate how geospatial methods and applications can enable effective policymaking and decision-making for enhanced sustainable development outcomes.

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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
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New York, 6-8 August 2014
Item 7 of the provisional agenda*
Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data

Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management its report on the legal and policy issues to be considered in developing a framework to support global geospatial information management in the public and private sectors, including issues related to authoritative data. The report is available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the way forward in addressing the issue.

Summary of the report

At its third session, held in July 2013, the Committee of Experts acknowledged that there are significant legal and policy challenges emerging related to the collection, use, storage and distribution of geospatial information, including issues related to the licensing, sharing, pricing, privacy, quality, liability, authority and security of data, and open data. The Committee of Experts further acknowledged the need to begin engaging with lawmakers, policymakers and lawyers on the value of geospatial information, including open data, and related applications and processes, as well as the need for governance in geospatial information management, and in this context specifically requested the Secretariat to reach out to the International Bar Association regarding the Association's current work on a draft convention on geoinformation. The Committee of Experts also asked the Secretariat to continue its work with the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy

* E/C.20/2014/1.

14-53818 (E) 020614

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and interested Member States, building on the work of the regional entities and other relevant forums.

Prepared with the assistance of the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy, the report describes the issues that impact the requisite legal and policy frameworks globally and captures the Secretariat's engagement with the International Bar Association regarding the Association's current work on a draft convention on geoinformation.

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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
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Item 8 of the provisional agenda*
Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community

Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the report prepared jointly by the Open Geospatial Consortium, technical committee 211 of the International Organization for Standardization and the International Hydrographic Organization, which is available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the way forward for the international geospatial information community, including the adoption and implementation of core geospatial standards.

Summary of the report

At its third session, held in July 2013, the Committee of Experts, by decision 3/106, noted the close degree of cooperation among technical committee 211 of the International Organization for Standardization, the Open Geospatial Consortium and the International Hydrographic Organization, and stressed the importance of standards for effective data-sharing and the need for the full involvement of Member States in the development and maintenance of standards. In addition, the Committee emphasized the importance of implementing and adopting standards within national legal and policy frameworks, and noted the need for developing countries to receive support from the standardization bodies in those efforts. The Committee requested the Secretariat to continue its work with the standardization bodies and Member States and to report thereon to the Committee.

* E/C.20/2014/1.

14-53863 (E) 020614

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The joint report is intended to inform policymakers and programme managers in Member States of the value of using and investing in geospatial standardization, and describes the benefits of using open geospatial standards to achieve standardization, data-sharing and interoperability goals.

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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
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New York, 6-8 August 2014
Item 9 of the provisional agenda*
Integration of geospatial, statistical and other information

Integration of geospatial, statistical and other information

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, which is available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the way forward for the global geospatial information community, including in encouraging Member States to actively participate in the Expert Group.

Summary of the report

At its third session, held in July 2013, the Committee of Experts discussed the need to integrate geospatial information with statistics and other data; the programme review on developing a geospatial statistical framework, conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on behalf of the Statistical Commission; and the decision on the issue adopted by the Statistical Commission at its forty-fourth session, held from 26 February to 1 March 2013 (see E/2013/24, decision 44/101). The Committee of Experts acknowledged the importance of integrating geospatial information with statistics and endorsed the decision by the Statistical Commission to establish an expert group composed of representatives of both the statistical and geospatial communities to carry out the work on developing a statistical spatial framework as a global standard for the integration of statistical and geospatial information.

* E/C.20/2014/1.

14-53865 (E) 020614

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The report provides information on the establishment of the Expert Group and summarizes the major issues discussed at its first meeting, held in New York from 30 October to 1 November 2013. It outlines the main recommendations to emerge from the meeting, including the proposal to organize an international conference on the integration of statistical and geospatial information, to be held in New York in August 2014 in conjunction with the fourth session of the Committee of Experts. It also summarizes some of the activities carried out since the establishment of the Expert Group, including the convening of an international workshop on integrating geospatial and statistical information, to be held in Beijing from 9 to 12 June 2014.

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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
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Item 10 of the provisional agenda*
Developing a shared statement of principles on the management of geospatial information

Developing a shared statement of principles on the management of geospatial information

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the report prepared by the working group on the development of a statement of shared principles, which is available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report, provide further comments on the draft statement of shared principles, and to express its views on the way forward for national and global geospatial information management entities to endorse, adopt and implement the statement of shared principles.

Summary of the report

At its third session, held in July 2013, the Committee of Experts, by decision 3/108, took note of the report on the development of a shared statement of principles on the management of geospatial information. The Committee was encouraged by the deeper consideration given to the subject since its second session and, recognizing the importance of shared principles to guide geospatial information management, invited the Secretariat to work with a small group of Member States, which would include members of the statistical community, on a preliminary proposal for a set of shared principles and to report to the Committee in that regard.

The report prepared by the working group describes the establishment of the group and the process of consultation and deliberation undertaken with Member

* E/C.20/2014/1.

14-53861 (E) 020614

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States and geospatial experts to revise and refine the principles, and outlines a preliminary proposal for the statement of shared principles, for consideration by the Committee of Experts.

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New York, 6-8 August 2014
Item 11 of the provisional agenda*
Knowledge base for geospatial information management

Knowledge base for geospatial information management

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management its report on new developments brought to the knowledge base for geospatial information management, which is available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the way forward for the knowledge base, under the coordination of the Committee of Experts.

Summary of the report

At its third session, held in July 2013, the Committee of Experts, by decision 3/112, took note of the report of the Secretariat on the initiative to design and develop a knowledge base for geospatial information and to disseminate it through a web-based portal. The Committee invited Member States to provide feedback to the Secretariat on the structure of the knowledge base portal prototype, and requested the Secretariat to make the beta version of the portal operational after its third session.

The report of the Secretariat describes the new structure of the knowledge base and its content in terms of geospatial information themes presented by geographical level (global, regional and national), based on the comments received from Member States. The information, collected from the best practices, case studies and four survey-based studies compiled by countries, will be made available through the knowledge base. The report outlines the actions to be taken for the completion of a searchable and continuously updated repository, building on the existing resources of the website of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management.

* E/C.20/2014/1.

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Item 12 of the provisional agenda*
Coordination of United Nations activities related to geospatial information management

Coordination of United Nations activities related to geospatial information management

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the report of the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group and a background document prepared by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, which are available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and the background document, and to express its views on ways in which the United Nations geospatial community can better support stakeholders, and on how the expertise of the geographical naming community can better contribute to the activities of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management.

Summary of the report

At its third session, held in July 2013, the Committee of Experts, by decision 3/110, urged international organizations and agencies that collect geospatial data from countries to make them available in a transparent and coordinated manner; stressed the need for better coordination and clarification of the roles and responsibilities of geospatial information management activities, both within and outside the United Nations system; and requested the Secretariat and the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group to work together and report to the Committee of Experts in that regard.

* E/C.20/2014/1.

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The report of the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group describes the activities of its members in fostering closer coordination with the Committee of Experts, commensurate with the initiatives of the Committee, and within the United Nations geospatial information community. The background document prepared by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names reflects an initiative of that community, which had voiced the need to work closely with the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management.

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Item 13 of the provisional agenda
Activities related to sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda

Activities related to sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management its report on activities related to sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda. The report is available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report.

Summary of the report

At its third session, held in July 2013, the Committee of Experts expressed its appreciation for the active efforts of the Secretariat to reach out to decision makers on the importance of the use of reliable geospatial information for sustainable development, and to encourage national geospatial information authorities to actively contribute to sustainable development discussions and activities. Acknowledging that efforts to raise awareness of the role of geospatial information must continue, the Committee, by decision 3/111, requested the Secretariat to continue to keep it informed about the efforts and initiatives of the United Nations system related to sustainable development.

In its report, the Secretariat provides updated information on activities carried out in the context of using reliable geospatial information for risk assessment and disaster risk reduction instruments, and on major activities related to the post-2015 development agenda, including the sustainable development goals currently being established by the United Nations.

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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
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Item 14 of the provisional agenda*
Reports by regional entities and thematic groups

Reports by regional entities and thematic groups

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management its report on the regional and thematic activities and achievements of the six entities referred to below. The report is available only in the language of submission from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and express its views on the operation and achievements of the regional entities.

Summary of the report

The report provides information on the regional and thematic activities and achievements of the following six entities: the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific; the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas; the Committee on Development Information, Science and Technology of the Economic Commission for Africa; the Preparatory Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information for Europe; the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Arab States; and the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies.

The reports of the regional and thematic entities describe their activities and achievements since the third session of the Committee of Experts, held in July 2013. The reports also provide an overview of their work in the following areas: (a) contribution to United Nations activities on global geospatial information management; (b) legal and policy issues; (c) administrative arrangements; (d) capacity

* E/C.20/2014/1.

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development; (e) publicity and outreach; (f) partnerships; (g) regional and international collaboration; (h) technical issues; (i) priority issues and challenges; and (j) future plans. In its report, the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies invites the Committee to endorse and participate in activities recognizing International Map Year, 2015-2016. In its report, the Preparatory Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information for Europe invites the Committee of Experts to endorse the formal establishment of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe.